suggesting his involvement in the Bofors payments; and

(b) whether there is a prima facie evidence to suggest that the CBI was advised not to disturb Quattrocchi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) On the 23rd July, 1993, CBI became aware that Shri O. Quattrocchi was one of the appellants in the Bofors case which was dismissed by the Supreme Court of Switzerland on the 12th July, 1993. The matter concerning action against him was considered in the CBI, but for lack of evidence or documents concerning his involvement in the case other than being an appellant only, it was not considered legally feasible to take any action against him at that point of time. With the receipt of certain relevant documents from the Swiss authorities by the CBI in January, 1997, steps have been initiated by the CBI to have Shri Quattrocchi, who is presently residing in Malaysia, arrested and extradited to India.

(b) No, Sir.

Recruitment of women drivers

2749. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue directions to recruit women drivers, if available, for driving Government cars, with a view to promote welfare of women; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) Instructions/directions have been issued by this Department prescribing method of recruitment and the scheme of promotion for staff car drivers. The directions make no discrimination in the matter of recruitment of staff car drivers on the basis of gender.

LPG distribution network in Maharastra Villages

2750. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether LPG distribtion agencies have been sanctioned for big villages and clusters of small villages in Maharashtra, to reduce the pressue on fuelwood used by villagers;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) the number of villages in Nagpur district of the State, covered so far under the LPG distribution network;

(d) whether Government propose to bring more villages under the network during 1997-98; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) As per the existing policy, LPG distributorships are planned to be opened in towns having population of 10,000 and above in a phased manner provided potential of the town including that of the adjoining villages within 15 KMs radius is adeqate to sustain a viable LPG distributorship.

51 LPG distributorships have been included in the draft LPG Marketing Plan 1996—98 for Maharashtra including 3 locations for Nagpur District viz., Kalmeshwar, Dhaha, Narkhed.